

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FISHERIES
INFORMATION NETWORK IN
THE SOUTHEAST REGION
(FIN)

JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

MAY 2025

GSMFC Publication No. 333

WHO WE ARE

The need for a comprehensive and cooperative data collection program has never been greater because of the magnitude of the recreational and commercial fisheries and the differing roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved. Many southeastern stocks targeted by anglers are now depleted, due primarily to excessive harvest, habitat loss, and degradation. The information needs of today's management regimes require data, which are statistically sound, long-term in scope, timely, and comprehensive. A cooperative partnership between state and federal agencies is the most appropriate mechanism to accomplish these goals. The Fisheries Information Network (FIN) is a state-federal cooperative program to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the marine commercial and recreational fisheries of the Southeast Region. The scope of GulfFIN includes representation from seven state agencies in the region, NOAA Fisheries, Gulf of America Fishery Management Council, Caribbean Fishery Management Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Program Organization

The organizational structure consists of the GulfFIN Committee, two geographic subcommittees (Caribbean and Gulf), standing and ad hoc subcommittees, technical work groups, and administrative support (Figure 1).

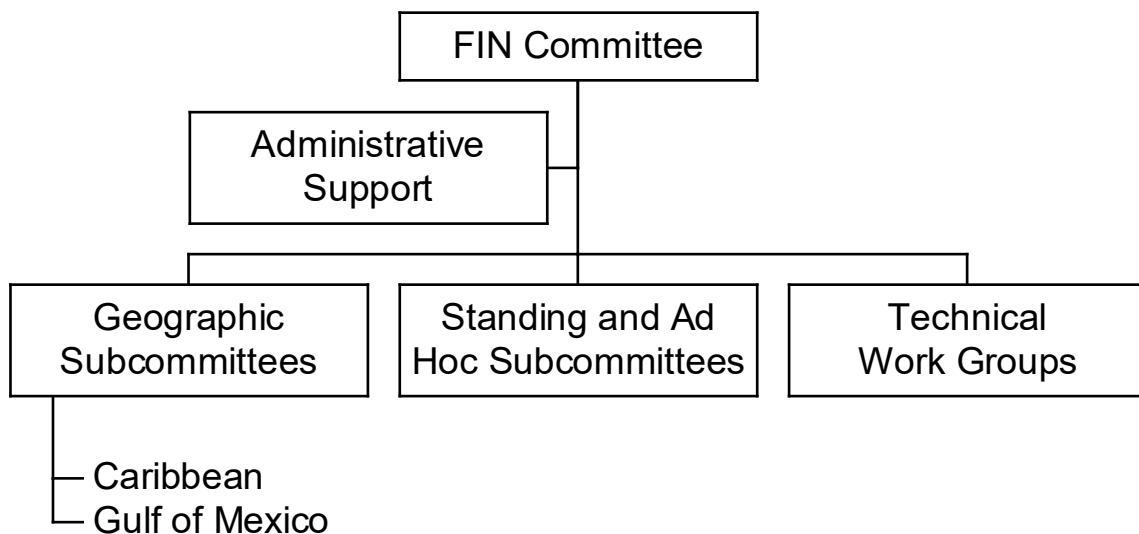


Figure 1. Organizational structure of the FIN.

WHAT WE DO

GulfFIN is a comprehensive program comprised of coordinated data collection activities, an integrated data management and retrieval system, and procedures for information dissemination. Activities during 2024 were associated with addressing issues and problems regarding data

collection and management and developing strategies for dealing with these topics. In addition to committee activities, FIN was involved in various operational activities concerning the collection and management of marine commercial and recreational fisheries data. These activities were conducted by the various state and federal agencies involved in FIN. Each type of activity is discussed below.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Collecting, Managing and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data

Marine recreational landings data often provide a direct measure of the effectiveness of management efforts and are important inputs in the stock assessment process. These datasets can also be extremely useful in assessing mortality that results from recreational angling effort. GulfFIN recognizes this need and supports the conduct of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) survey in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. GulfFIN provides coordination of the surveys, an access-point intercept survey (AP AIS) of shore, for-hire and private boat anglers to estimate angler catch using the existing MRIP methodology which is conducted by state biologists. GSMFC staff oversee the quality control of electronic data that is uploaded from port sampler tablets. These data are combined with the NMFS Fishing Effort survey data to allow for estimation of total catch and landings for all species encountered along with total fishing effort estimation as well. The states also conduct weekly telephone calls to a 10% random sample of the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida (east and west coast) charter boat captains to obtain estimates of charter boat fishing effort. GulfFIN also provided partial support for Louisiana Creel field surveys which have been implemented to replace MRIP in Louisiana. GulfFIN also provided financial support to collect enhanced recreational samples in Texas along with supporting Alabama Snapper Check to support ACL monitoring of red snapper. The table below shows the number of dockside assignments and angler interviews the state samplers conducted for each mode.



2024 Numbers of Dockside Assignments and Interviews						
State	Assignments			Interviews		
	SH	CH/PR	Total	SH	CH/PR	Total
Florida - East	259	1056	1315	1895	7969	9864
Florida - West	509	1602	2111	5093	12850	17943
Alabama	126	440	566	1196	4988	6184
Mississippi	98	350	448	253	1460	1713
				CH	PR	Total
Louisiana				7579	17582	25161
Texas (red snapper trips sampled)				211 private boat trips		

2024 For-hire Telephone Survey Response Rates

RESPONDENTS					NONRESPONDENTS					
State	Active eligible	Inactive eligible	Ineligibles	Subtotal	Refusal	Non-contacts number	attempts	No contact possible	Subtotal	Total
Florida										
Region 1	1354	72	141	1567	245	449	5.0	2	696	2263
Region 2	1643	113	127	1883	263	1560	4.9	10	1833	3716
Region 3	753	62	24	839	88	1065	5.0	9	1162	2001
Region 4	990	50	35	1075	157	616	5.0	8	781	1856
Region 5	1036	86	69	1191	230	831	5.2	19	1080	2271
FL totals	5776	383	396	6555	983	4521	5.0	48	5552	12107
Alabama	1092	76	268	1436	137	230	6.5	1	368	1804
Mississippi	279	1	0	280	0	121	4.7	6	127	407
Total	7147	460	664	8271	1120	4872	5.1	55	6047	14318

RESPONDENTS					NONRESPONDENTS					
State	Active eligible	Inactive eligible	Ineligibles	Subtotal	Refusal	Non contacts		No contact possible	Subtotal	Total
Florida										
Region 1	59.8%	3.2%	6.2%	69.2%	10.8%	19.8%		0.1%	30.8%	100.0%
Region 2	44.2%	3.0%	3.4%	50.7%	7.1%	42.0%		0.3%	49.3%	100.0%
Region 3	37.6%	3.1%	1.2%	41.9%	4.4%	53.2%		0.4%	58.1%	100.0%
Region 4	53.3%	2.7%	1.9%	57.9%	8.5%	33.2%		0.4%	42.1%	100.0%
Region 5	45.6%	3.8%	3.0%	52.4%	10.1%	36.6%		0.8%	47.6%	100.0%
FL totals	47.7%	3.2%	3.3%	54.1%	8.1%	37.3%		0.4%	45.9%	100.0%
Alabama	60.5%	4.2%	14.9%	79.6%	7.6%	12.7%		0.1%	20.4%	100.0%
Mississippi	68.6%	0.2%	0.0%	68.8%	0.0%	29.7%		1.5%	31.2%	100.0%
Total	49.9%	3.2%	4.6%	57.8%	7.8%	34.0%		0.4%	42.2%	100.0%

Southeast Region Headboat Sampling

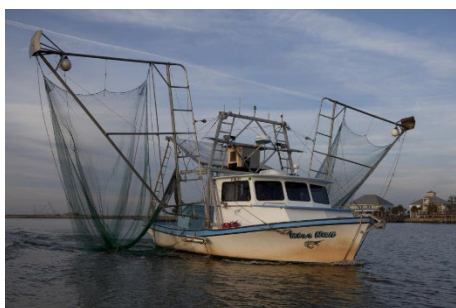
The Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) is administered by the Beaufort Laboratory of the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC). The survey has operated along the southeast U.S. Atlantic since 1972 and in the Gulf of America since 1986. Although not directly supported with GulfFIn funding, monies are provided to assist with the port sampling portion of this project. The GSMFC subcontracted with individuals to sample headboat catches in the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. GSMFC also subcontracted with the state of Florida to hire personnel as port agents to intercept headboats and sample their catches dockside. These port agents collect various data such as, length/weight observations on fishes in the headboat catches; otoliths, gonads, and other biological materials from selected species as prioritized. Collectively these port agents sampled 598 trips, measured 17,923 fish and collected 6,395 otoliths and spines from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Along with dockside sampling duties, port agents QA\QC vessel trip reports and monitor

reporting compliance for each headboat in their area of responsibility. This information is summarized in bi-monthly landings estimates and annual estimates that are used for monitoring Annual Catch Limits (ACL) and stock assessments analyses. The port agents submitted all data, weekly reports, sampling schedules, and other pertinent information to NMFS-Beaufort Laboratory on established deadlines.

STATE	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS	NUMBER OF FISH MEASURED	NUMBER OF HARD PARTS
AL	59	3,222	947
LA/MS	34	767	432
WFL	337	10,578	4,386
TX	168	3,356	630
TOTAL	598	17,923	6395

Trip Ticket Program Operations

To fully characterize marine fishery removals, it is necessary to have accurate landings data from the commercial fishery. GulfFIN supports full operation of a commercial trip



ticket program to census the commercial landings in the Gulf of America using the data elements and standards developed by the GulfFIN. In addition, GulfFIN provides funding to contract for implementation and operation of an electronic reporting system as well as reporting of data for the quota monitoring and IFQ programs. For 2024, there were approximately 1,200 commercial dealers and processors in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi,

Louisiana, and Texas who were utilizing this program. The new web based VESL system is in production for four Gulf states in 2024 and work continues to get Louisiana a production version of the application. States in production continue work to encourage dealers to transition to the new VESL reporting tool. GulfFIN received approximately 338,000 commercial dealer reports totaling 868 million live pounds of commercial product totaling over \$714 million in dockside value in 2024.

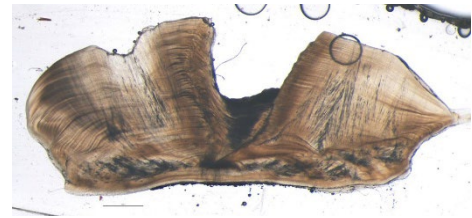
Development and Implementation of FIN Data Management System (DMS)

Storage and dissemination of data are a vital component to GulfFIN. Creating a system of secure storage and easy access for state and federal partners to access GulfFIN databases is critical to increasing the amount and quality of data available for science and management. Funding is utilized to support a GulfFIN Data Base Manager and ComFIN Survey Coordinator who will, in conjunction with the ACCSP, work on developing more data modules for the FIN and ACCSP data management systems. This also supports all the hardware and software requirements needed by GulfFIN to implement necessary information technology infrastructure. Responsibilities of staff include further

development of data modules structures; routine loading of state commercial catch effort data, Gulf biological data, Gulf recreational data and maintenance of DMS. More information regarding the GulfFIN Data Management System can be found at <https://www.gsmfc.org/fin-dms.php>.

Biological Sampling of Recreational Catches

Biological age and length data are essential to accurately assessing the status of commercial and recreational species. GulfFIN has worked hard to provide funding to support the collection and processing of age structures from important management species. All five states have developed more representative sampling methods to obtain biological data based on random sampling techniques similar to dockside sampling catch landings surveys. The hope is that as methods are refined we could take a standardized approach in all states. GulfFIN provided funding for collection, processing and analysis of these data. The primary target species include black drum, gag, gray snapper, gray triggerfish, greater amberjack, king mackerel, red drum, red grouper, red snapper, sheepshead, flounders (gulf & southern), spotted seatrout, striped mullet and vermilion snapper although many other species are also collected. The amount of funding that was available was significantly less than a normal year so sampling levels were reduced. Funds could only made available for July through December 2024 and only Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana opted to receive funding.



STATE	NUMBER OF SPECIES	NUMBER OF AGE STRUCTURES	NUMBER OF LENGTHS
FL	49	952	1,021
AL	15	124	124
LA	14	4,605	6,120

Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities

Working closely with the Committee in all aspects of program coordination, administration, and operation was a major function of FIN coordination and administrative support. Other important coordination and administrative activities included but were not limited to: providing coordination and logistical support, including communications and organization of meetings for the Committee, subcommittees, and work groups; serving as liaison between the Committee, other program participants, and other interested organizations; preparing annual operations plans under the direction of the Committee; preparing and/or supervising and coordinating preparation of selected documents, including written records of all meetings; and distributing approved FIN information and data in accordance with accepted policies and procedures.

In 2024 FIN also assisted in the administration of funds to support:

- *Alabama Snapper Check Implementation* – This task provides funding support through Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act to support red snapper monitoring in Alabama. Funding was used to support vessel operator reporting tools along with the implementation and support of an electronic application for collecting dockside validation surveys. Alabama Snapper Check is used to collect data for monitoring the red snapper annual catch limit for Alabama waters. For 2024 ALDCNR estimated 570,855 pounds of red snapper harvested by private boats and state permitted charter vessels. Their annual catch limit was 659,654 pounds of red snapper. They interviewed 692 vessels with their dockside validation survey and received 6,208 landings reports from vessels harvesting red snapper.
- *Commercial Conversion Factor Research* - The objective of this project is to conduct continued research with the Gulf state partners to improve the quality and accuracy of commercial data by collecting and analyzing priority species samples to validate, verify, and update conversion factors used to determine whole (live) weight of commercial landings from reported units (ex. Gutted to whole, bushels to pounds, units to pounds). This allows for commercial landings to be reported accurately in common currency for use in stock assessment and management. In 2024 the states completed a final reported assessing key reef fish species like red snapper and groupers. This research showed many of the historical conversion factors were inaccurate and provided the states updated conversion factors. The states in 2024 also began researching additional priority species like eastern oyster, king mackerel, blue crab, striped mullet and great barracuda.
- *LDWF Trip Ticket QR Code Project* – The objective of this project was to create a QR code encapsulating the commercial fisher and commercial fisher's vessel information and create a VESL mobile application to ingest this information into the electronic commercial trip ticket. The goal was to provide an improvement to the process of initiating a trip ticket and better position Louisiana and other states to transition away from paper reporting methods. The transfer process and ingestion process between LA Wallet and VESL mobile have been completed and LDWF staff are conducting in-house testing. The LA Wallet application is expected to go into production in April at which time LDWF staff will conduct testing and evaluation with members of the Louisiana blue crab industry. With successful testing, the QR ingest component of VESL mobile will be considered appropriate for use in a future production version of the VESL mobile application.
- *Early Adopter Shrimp eLB Project* – The objective of this project is to establish an early adopter project for the federal shrimp fishery that responds to efforts for developing modernized shrimp effort data collection program. The hope is to get shrimp vessels equipped with new electronic monitoring devices that provides shrimp fishing effort data back to NOAA Fisheries for the purpose of monitoring the shrimp fishery. Current devices are being phased out due to 3G cellular technology no longer being supported. GSMFC published an RFP and

subsequently awarded a subcontract to LGL Ecological Research Associates to administer this project. LGL began the first major campaign to install cVMS on vessels in February 2024, starting in the east and working westward across the Gulf. As of March 2025, LGL has made 120 installations (19 Florida, 9 Alabama, 12 Mississippi, 29 Louisiana, and 51 Texas). LGL has utilized over 80% of the original funding and anticipates using the remainder of the funds to cover costs associated with transmission fees for the next year. Thus, the combined costs for outreach, industry engagement, coordination with cVMS vendors and NOAA Fisheries, the purchases of cVMS units, installation and travel costs resulted in an average cost of ~\$2,896 for each vessel equipped with a cVMS. LGL indicates there are more volunteers than funding to accomplish installations. Given the growing interest in this program by the shrimp industry, the hope is that additional funds will become available to accommodate installation requests for the existing volunteers and to bring new volunteers to the program. GSMFC staff are working with NOAA Fisheries SEFSC staff to obtain an additional \$450k to help equip and support additional vessel with new cVMS units.

- *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Infrastructure Agreement* – The objective of this work is to 1) hold two workshops focused on investigating novel approaches to collecting recreational effort and released catch data and 2) hold a workshop to develop GulfFIN recreational data standards and develop a pathway toward developing a data warehouse for state survey data at GSMFC. The two workshops involving novel improvements to recreational data collection efforts were held in 2024 and an RFP was published that was seeking roughly \$7M in proposed spending to deploy research in these key areas. GSMFC received 11 projects totaling \$14M in requested funding. An independent group of reviewers will begin scoring the proposals in March 2025 and reviews will be used by Andy Strelcheck and Clay Porch to make final choices on funding awarding. Most of the research will be accomplished in 2025 through 2027. The workshop focused on GulfFIN and state data management system improvements is being held in February 2025.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

FIN Committee

The GulfFIN Committee met in October 2024 in conjunction with the GSMFC Annual Meeting. There were a variety of important issues addressed. The issues discussed during the meeting included:

- A discussion of GSMFC IRA funding activities;
- Updates from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) including a discussion of the MRIP Gulf Regional Implementation Plan;
- A presentation on epigenetic ageing research;

- An update on SEFHIER Development Discussions from NOAA Fisheries and Gulf Council staff;
- Updates on the progress of VESL commercial trip ticket reporting program development including a presentation on the LA Wallet Trip Ticket project;
- A discussion on the need for a standardized approach to aquaculture reporting through trip ticket programs;
- A discussion of ongoing commercial conversion factor research;
- An update on GulfFIN strategic plan progress;

Subcommittees and Work Groups

A couple FIN subcommittees met during the year to provide recommendations to the Committee to formulate administrative policies, address specific technical issues for accomplishing many of the FIN goals and objectives, and to examine other issues as decided by the Committee. Many of the normal subcommittees did not meet due to the COVID19 pandemic and other priorities that took up state and federal partner time. A summary of the normal subcommittee activities is provided below.

- The annual Otolith Processor Training Workshop held in April 2024. Age sample collection and processing remains an essential data component in the stock assessment process. Overall, the state labs that are processing and reading otoliths do an exceptional job which is represented in the low average percent error (APE) from the historical reference set readings. State processing labs continued to work as possible to process and read age structures. GulfFIN fills a large data gap by providing the majority of recreational samples available for the Gulf of America and East Florida. You can see the results from 2016-2019 and 2023-2024 reading exercises in the table below. For most species an APE of 5 or lower is a good result. Reference set coordinators are distributing sets again and our hope is to have an in-person processors meeting sometime in early 2025. Unfortunately, GulfFIN is lacking sufficient funding to help support field collecting of ageing structures in 2025. The processors meeting is still vitally important as states try and collect age structures with available state funding.

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2023	2024
Black drum	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00	NR	0.06
Red drum	1.83	1.33	0.00	NR	0.09	NR
Spotted seatrout	0.86	4.97	NR	0.00	NR	0.58
Southern flounder	6.48	1.85	3.79	2.29	1.80	1.75
Striped mullet	3.12	2.67	2.04	NR	3.40	1.21
Sheepshead	0.00	0.00	NR	0.00	NR	1.50
Red snapper	0.98	0.00	1.22	0.97	3.70	7.40

Gray snapper	0.80	0.50	0.53	NR	3.00	NR
Vermilion snapper	7.47	8.93	6.48	6.08	7.80	8.20
King mackerel	7.84	5.79	2.89	7.20	11.10	7.20
Greater amberjack	10.88	9.65	6.79	10.30	14.00	16.10
Gray triggerfish	22.33	11.08	6.02	11.37	11.70	18.30
Gulf menhaden	14.36	10.70	5.67	8.86	NR	NR
Gag			6.25	3.74	4.20	10.60
Atlantic croaker			0.00	0.00	0.00	NR
Southern kingfish			6.11	3.63	12.90	7.20
Cobia			2.67	10.22	5.80	2.24

- The State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee also met in October 2024 in conjunction with the October GSMFC Fall Meeting to determine the activities for inclusion in the 2025 FIN cooperative agreement; to discuss and approve 2025 SEAMAP funding; to receive an update on the IJ State Research Funding for 2025; to receive the Menhaden Advisory Committee report; a presentation on the Atlantic HMS proposed rule on electronic reporting; and an update on GSMFC IRA red snapper funding.

Information Dissemination

Committee members and staff provided program information via a variety of different methods such as distribution of program documents, presentation to various groups interested in the FIN, and via the Internet:

- FIN Committee. 2023. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023*. No. 324 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 29 pp.
- FIN Committee. 2022. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022*. No. 323 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 30 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2021. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021*. No. 315 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 37 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2020. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020*. No. 309 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 38 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2019. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019*. No. 303 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 34 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2019. *2019 Operations Plan for Fisheries Information Network (FIN)*. No. 290 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 20 pp + appendix.
- FIN Committee. 2018. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018*. No. 289 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 43 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2018. *2018 Operations Plan for Fisheries Information Network (FIN)*. No. 273 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 26 pp + appendix.
- FIN Committee. 2017. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017*. No. 277 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 51 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2016. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016*. No. 272 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 51 pp + appendices.
- *Current Issues Facing Recreational Fisheries Management*. No. 271 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 13pp.

- FIN Committee. 2017. *2017 Operations Plan for Fisheries Information Network (FIN)*. No. 252 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 26 pp + appendix.
- FIN Committee. 2016. *2016 Operations Plan for Fisheries Information Network (FIN)*. No. 251 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 26 pp + appendix.
- FIN Committee. 2015. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015*. No. 250 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 53 pp + appendices.
- FIN Committee. 2015. *2015 Operations Plan for Fisheries Information Network (FIN)*. No. 232 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 29 pp + appendix.
- FIN Committee. 2014. *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network for the Southeastern United States (FIN) January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014*. No. 248 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Ocean Springs. 22 pp + appendices.
- Variety of informal discussions occurred throughout the year during ASMFC, GSMFC, NMFS, and other participating agencies meetings and workshops.
- The FIN has developed a data management system that provides access to commercial and recreational data for the Gulf States. There are two levels of access: confidential and non-confidential and users can request access via the FIN DMS web site (www.gsmfc.org/data.html)
- NMFS provides a user-friendly data management system (DMS) for the MRIP that is accessible via the web (www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/index.html)
- GSMFC has developed a home page that provides programmatic and operational information regarding FIN.

If you are interested in any of the documents, they are available upon request from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission office.

TABLE 1. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR GulfFIN IN 2023 – 2025

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Planning, Management, and Evaluation			
Operations plans			
B1-Development of annual operations plans	X	X	X
B2-Development of Funding Initiatives to Establish Marine Recreational Fisheries Surveys	X	X	X
Information dissemination			
B3-Disseminate Program Information	X	X	X
B4-Coordinate with ACCSP and NMFS to develop outreach/education materials	X	X	X
B4-Use Internet communications	X	X	X
Program review			
B5-Conduct periodic FIN strategic planning	X		
Data Collection			
Operational activities			
A1-Operation of Trip Ticket Programs	X	X	X
A2-Design, Implementation, Maintenance of Data Management System	X	X	X
A3-Collection of Recreational Fisheries Data	X	X	X
Quality control/assurance			
B7-Otolith Processors Training Workshops	X	X	X
B8-Review of commercial QA/QC standards	X	X	
B10-Expand approach for validating commercial conversion factors	X	X	X
B11-Review of recreational QA/QC standards			X
Coordination of data collection			
B9-Evaluate biological sampling strategies	X	X	
B11-Development of recreational data standards	X	X	X
B13-Explore Strategies for In-Season Quota Monitoring	X	X	X
B14-Improve Timeliness of Data to Support Quota Monitoring	X	X	X
Innovative collection technology			
B12-Evaluate innovative data collection technologies	X	X	X
Data Management			
Hardware/software capabilities			
B15-Review hardware/software capabilities	X	X	X
Innovative data management technology			
B12-Evaluate innovative data management technologies	X	X	X
Development of National Program			
Long-term and coordination with other programs planning			
B16-Implementation of Long-Term National Planning	X	X	X
B17-Coordination with ACCSP and Pacific RecFIN	X	X	X

TABLE 2. FIN COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

Nicole Beckham
Alabama Marine Resources Division

Ken Brennan
NOAA Fisheries
Beaufort Laboratory

Chris Bradshaw
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Marie Head
Alabama Marine Resources Division

Gregg Bray
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

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